

**Thomas Jefferson to Albert Gallatin, May 29, 1805, from
The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes.
Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester
Ford.**

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY J. MSS. (ALBERT GALLATIN.)

May 29, 1805.

Th. J. to Mr. Gallatin.

I have no information that the Act dividing Orleans into counties is passed. By the papers which came yesterday it appeared to have been twice read and committed. Would not the *waters of the Red River* form one proper district, and the *residuary* country another? or the waters of the Red River and the country *above and between* that and the Mississippi for one, and the *residuary* country the other?

The financial part of your letter is highly pleasing. There must be something more in this increase of revenue than the *natural and war* increase; *depreciation* to a small degree in other countries, a sensible one in this, and a great one in England, must make a part of it, and is a lesson to us to prefer ad valorem to fixed duties. The latter require often retouching, or they become delusive. As to the Orleans revenue, I presume we may consider it as the consumption of 60,000 people and their increase, added to that of 6,000,000 and their increase; for though the former will increase faster than the latter, it will only be by drawing off numbers from them. But, from whatever cause, the increase of revenue is a pleasing circumstance, as it hastens the moment of liberating our revenue, and of permitting us to begin upon canals, roads, college, &c. I presume you will locate on your map the Indians from Sibley's statement; my maps being in the hands of the binder,

Library of Congress

I cannot do it; but when you shall have done it, I shall be glad to have a consultation with you on the extent to which we may lay off townships, and of the assurance we may give to the Indians included within them. I enclose you a paper at Mr. Madison's request. Affectionate salutations.